

STAR Watch

Statewide Technology Assistance Resources Project

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New Version of Ad-Aware Makes Its Debut

Lavasoft has revamped Ad-Aware, its popular anti-Spyware application. The recently-announced new versions contain a host of new features, take up less space on the computer workstation and run noticeably faster than previous versions. While two of the Ad-Aware products are for purchase only, Ad-Aware SE Personal can be downloaded at no charge. Lavasoft also announced that current versions of Ad-Aware will not be supported after October 25, 2004.

New features:

- New command line parameters that allow for silent and automated operation of Ad-Aware
- UNC support for remote storage of preferences, definitions, and log files
- New results screens and detailed statistics
- Improved logging and reporting
- Hardened against third party uninstall with encrypted preference files
- Links to more information on detected content from our website
- New safety option that allows you to write protect sensitive system files such as the Hosts file

Scanning engine improvements:

- Extended memory scanning

- Now scans all modules loaded by a process
- Uses all new CSI (Code Sequence Identification) technology to identify new and unknown variants of known targets
- Extended protection against DLL-injection. (SE can unload process modules on the fly)

Extended registry scanning:

- Now scans registry branches of multiple user accounts
- Performs additional smart checks to detect dynamically created references
- Scanning speed noticeably faster
- Extended scanning for known and unknown/possible Browser-Hijackers

Extended disk scanning:

- Now scans and lists alternate data-streams on NTFS volumes
- Now Ad-Aware supports scanning of



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“cabinet” files, (including spanned archives)

- Scanning speed increased
- Improved Hosts-file scan
- Now Ad-Aware and Ad-Watch use much smaller reference files

User interface improvements:

- Improved Graphical User Interface (GUI)
- Ad-Aware now supports custom graphical skins
- More user friendly plug-in/extension GUI (Plug-ins and extensions now shown on separate screens)
- New Scan Result view, includes a scan summary and detailed view
- Ad-Aware now linked to the online TAC database

Multiple new Tweak options:

- Unloading of process modules during a scan
- Obtaining command line of scanned processes
- Ignoring spanned cab files
- Scan registry for all users instead of current user only
- Permanent archive caching
- Always try to unload modules before deletion
- Disable manual quarantine if auto quarantine is selected
- Block pop-ups aggressively
- Load Ad-Watch minimized
- Hide Ad-Watch tray icon
- Write protect system files after repair
- Limit drive selection to fixed drives
- Use gridlines in item lists
- Log file detail section condensed



Process watch improvements (not available in Personal edition):

- Improved Process-Watch scanning capabilities and scanning speed (Using the new CSI technology)
- Several Process-Watch Interface improvements
- Option to create a Hexdump of the process memory or dump the process memory to disk

Logfile improvements:

- Includes support for separate removal logfiles
- Allows adding a reference summary/index to logfiles
 - Logfile contains overall more detailed information

Ad-Watch improvements (not available in Personal edition):

- Several GUI improvements
- Ad-Watch now supports Cookie Blocking
- Site-manager to edit the popup-blacklist included
- Ad-Watch now uses the new CSI technology to detect new and unknown variants of known targets
- New Ad-Watch configuration screen
- New rules editor for pre-defined blocking exclusions

Lavasoft currently distributes its anti Spyware application Ad-Aware to over 80 million home and corporate users worldwide including 3000 partners in over 120 countries. To download a free copy of Ad-Aware SE Personal, visit Lavasoft's website at <http://www.lavasoft.de>.



Wireless Networking Takes a Leap Forward

Wireless networking technology has come a long way in a very short time. Many of us who opted for wireless technology always bought the fastest wireless card available as new computer workstations were purchased. Now, we have an office with workstations that contain wireless network cards of varying speeds. While it is true that wireless networks can operate successfully with a mixture of network cards, there is one issue: The entire network slows down to the speed of the slowest wireless network card. Even though the wireless access point/router can operate at 108Mbps (megabits per second), if there is a computer with a wireless card that only operates at 11Mbps, the entire wireless network operates at 11Mbps.

It would seem logical that wireless networks should operate at the highest possible speed of any of the workstations connected to it. But, up until now, it just wasn't the case. Finally, one vendor has announced a product that can do what everyone would expect. The Belkin Pre-N Wireless Router allows 802.11b, 802.11g, and 802.11n wireless network cards to coexist in a network, without slowing the entire network down to the speed of the slowest network card. How does it do it? It has multiple antennas, each one sending and receiving at one of the possible data rates for wireless networks. (It sounds so simple—why didn't anyone else think of it?)

Total network throughput is also greatly increased through the use of a technology called True MIMO (Multiple Input, Multiple Output). It is the first technology to address the issues of coverage, speed, and interference in larger homes and offices. The True MIMO technology also includes a smart-antenna technique that uses multiple antennas to transmit and receive wireless signals. It reaches a step further than other smart-antenna technologies by transmitting multiple signals on each antenna. As a result, Belkin's Pre-N products with this technology create a robust wireless connection while providing a larger coverage area with the bandwidth and quality of service needed to run advanced applications, such as streaming video or Voice over IP (VoIP).

When this wireless router is working with Belkin's Pre-N Wireless Network Cards, the coverage area is 8x the size of, and 6x the speed of a standard 802.11g (54Mbps) wireless network. That's pretty impressive. If the Pre-N router is used with a non-Pre-N network card, the coverage area will still increase up to 20%.

If the Pre-N router or the Pre-N network card senses interference, it automatically shifts to the clearest wireless channel available for more robust performance.

As for security, Wi-Fi® Protected Access (WPA) support provides enhanced encryption protecting your wireless network.

Priced at \$159.99 (MSRP), Belkin makes many claims about this wireless router that appear to stand up to independent verification but there is a catch: To make the most of the Pre-N router's capabilities, you will need to use one of the Pre-N network cards that sell for \$100 (MSRP). Look for this product to appear at your local cyber-supermarket in the next few days.



Geekspeak 102: Translating TLA's, FLA's, etc.

So what is a TLA or FLA? It's really very simple. A TLA is the acronym for Three Letter Acronym, FLA is the acronym for Four-Letter Acronym (or is it Five-Letter Acronym?). Acronyms can get very confusing for normal people who are used to saying and spelling exactly what they mean. But, fear not, help is available. The folks at <http://www.acronymfinder.com> have compiled a database of acronyms and respective meanings.

Simply go to the site, type in the acronym, click on the "Find" button. The results can be displayed for any of the following categories: Most common usage, Information Technology, Military & Government, Science & Medicine, Organizations & Schools, Business & Finance, and Slang & Chat.

So, DW (don't worry), when it comes to acronyms, this site has AYNTK (all you need to know).

On the Spam Battlefield...

Users of Microsoft Outlook can download a free program that interfaces with Outlook and helps to eliminate Spam. The program is available at <http://spambayes.sourceforge.net/windows.html>

Users with WNYLC mail can activate Spam protection right on the WNYLC server. On the *main WNYLC page* on the left side, there is a link called "[Spam Control](#)." At the bottom of the linked page, there is a section called "*How do I turn this on?*" WNYLC users can enter the first part of their email address (the part to the left of the "@" sign and their email password. When the Spam control screen comes up, check the first checkbox and place a "4" in the third box. This will mark all incoming Spam. If the second box is checked, the Spam will be deleted on the server and will never reach the user.

If junk mail messages come to WNYLC mail users who have these features activated, simply forward the offending message to report@wnylc.com The content and mail headers of the message will be automatically recorded and the program will then know that similar messages are Spam.



Great Utilities That Most of Us Don't Know About

The Internet is loaded with utilities that claim to do almost anything imaginable. Even though we would never dispute the author's claims about his or her pet project, we find that many utilities offered over the Internet don't fit our criteria for acceptance: 1. Do something useful and/or necessary. 2. Be easy to use. 3. Don't cost anything. Here are three utilities that meet our stringent acceptance criteria:

AM-DeadLink

It happens to almost everyone. We find a web site that has some really great information or does some really slick things and we add it to our Favorites list so that we can't lose track of it. Days, weeks or months pass and suddenly we decide to revisit that site, only to find that it no longer exists. AM-DeadLink detects dead and/or duplicated links in any of the most common web browsers (Internet Explorer, Netscape, Mozilla, Opera, etc) and allows users to remove them with just a couple clicks of the mouse.

Free: www.aignes.com

Restoration

We all know what the recycle bin on our computer is for and how to use it (well, most of us, anyway). One of Murphy's Law of Computer Usage states that the need to recover files from the Recycle Bin only occurs after the Recycle Bin has been emptied. Wouldn't it be nice if the Recycle Bin had a "recycle bin"? As it turns out, files that are deleted and then removed from the Recycle Bin aren't really gone—yet. The space that they occupied on

disk still exists, but won't show up on any normal file listing because the space has become part of the free space on the disk.

Restoration will allow users to locate and recover files whose space has not been overwritten. It's a simple-to-use utility. And, it's free.

Free: www.geocities.jp/br_kato

GSpot Codec Information Appliance

Anyone who regularly downloads video clips for viewing has faced this problem many times: After spending all that time downloading the clip, it won't play correctly, if at all. Sometimes, only the audio can be heard. Usually, you just get nothing.



In most cases, nothing is "wrong" with the clip that would prevent it from playing properly—if the right codec was used to play the audio or video clip. A codec (short for encode/decode) supplies the player with the information necessary to decode and play a clip. Unfortunately, the downloaded clip does not have a way to tell the media player what codec should be used and/or where to find it.

GSpot Codec Information solves that problem. After starting up GSpot and selecting the clip in question, this utility will display the name of the audio and video codecs used to encode the clip. You are now ready to locate and download the codec so that the clip can be played.

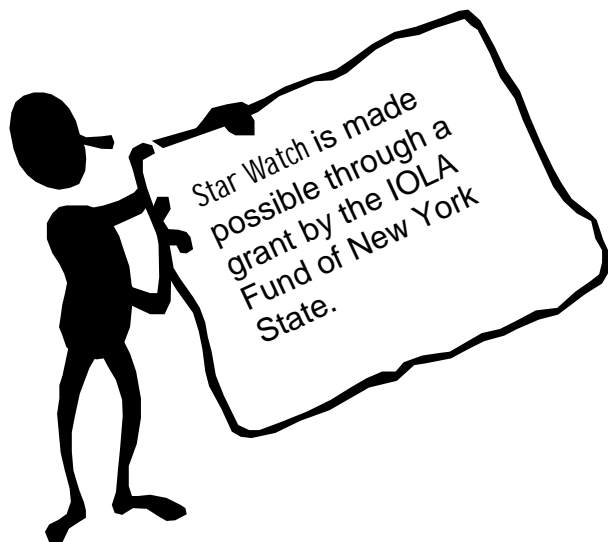
Free: www.headbands.com/gspot



WNYLC Web Statistics For October 2004

Total Hits.....349,393
 Total User Sessions.....39,452
 Average Hits/Day
 (Monday - Friday).....11,270
 Average user Sessions/Weekday.....1,272
 Number of Pages Viewed.....112,053
 Average Number of Pages
 Viewed Per Day.....3,614
 Number of Documents Viewed.....72,671

Accessed Using Internet Explorer.....91%
 Accessed Using Netscape.....3%
 Operating Systems Used:
 Windows 98.....22%
 Windows 2000.....29%
 Windows XP.....37%
 Windows 95.....<1%
 Windows ME.....1%
 Windows NT.....<1%
 Macintosh.....<1%
 Linux/Unix.....<1%



WHO WE ARE

Joe Kelemen - Attorney
 Kathleen Lynch - Attorney
 Tom Karkau - Programmer
 Carly Bouchard - Administrative Assistant



Wnylc@wnylc.com



716-855-0203



www.wnylc.net

Western New York Law Center, Inc.
 237 Main Street, Suite 1030
 Buffalo, New York 14203